







Once upon a time there was an Old Lady. Not so very old, neither, as age was reckoned among women of her rank and fashion; but the certainty was very much of a lady, and it flattered her to be called old.

She had a very large family of children, to whom she made an exemplary mother; and even in the difficult and delicate relation of mother-in-law, she never was found wanting; for when any of her sons died, she uniformly made it her duty to watch over their wives' and children's interests in her own.

This obliged her to keep a great deal more house than she otherwise have been bound, but she bore the expense, and the persons she entertained with the care of them, and the persons she entertained with the care of them.

She always used to say that this person should be the highest character, and quite fit, as to morals and manners, to sit at the table with them. She was an active housekeeper, and did not mind changing her help once a year; if necessary, or when they did not suit her; but she felt it important to keep the same steady elderly person for the children, as the only really safe and respectable way of going on. She need and always would have a care-free, grey-headed, lady-like body, who should be as much a part of the family as herself. She made it quite a rule of the household that such a one ought to live and die in it; and she always provided so carefully for the comfort and consideration of this important part of the help that they generally did so.

She exacted that their authority should be obeyed as her own, and their seat in the children's room looked upon with as much respect as her own rocking-chair in the parlour; and she made the whole family call them Miss, instead of plain Nabby or Sally, as the case might happen to be.

At one time it happened to be Miss Judy; and so all the family were trained to call her. Miss Judy was cousin to a rather overbearing member, who, indeed, gave her the place. This lady was commonly called in the family, the Widow Boss; because, in the first place, it was thought, of the airs she gave herself, as if she was master and more.

One day, just when Miss Judy was most wanted at home, in her narrow straight-up-and-down-chair, to keep order among the children, and help their poor worn-out mothers, she was nowhere to be found. Search was made, and soon terrible screams were heard, which made the Old Lady's blood run cold. All the family ran out of the front door and followed the sound. It took them clear across the road, and, all in a crowd together, they almost filled it up, and into the front yard of the opposite neighbour, where the screams came from. All ran as fast as they could, to see if they could do any good; for the Old Lady was not only a man to help, but always set them the good example of being kind to everybody else, and never a fellow creature suffer.

So they all made what haste they could, and, looking through the blinds, saw Miss Judy helping the falls to the top, rock and heel, a good-looking man of the neighbourhood. "He shall go back where he belongs!" bawled the neighbour, who was anything but a good neighbour, and had always made the Old Lady a great deal of trouble, in a variety of ways, that need not be told now. She did not like his ways, but she bore with him, because their grandfathers had been friends, and he was a distant relation. Her help knew much more about him than she did.

"The brute shall go back where he belongs!" said he, giving the man another kick. "So he shall," said Miss Judy. A number of the Old Lady's folks said he did not belong back there at all. They had seen and known him a long time. But Miss Judy would not hear a word of it.

The Old Lady's blood now made up for the chit, it is understood at first. It fairly boiled in her veins; and she called to Miss Judy through the window to "come home! right away—short motto!"

But Miss Judy would not, and finished helping the neighbour to get the poor creature into the wagon; which was not an easy job to do, with the Old Lady's folks all crying and taking up. They would have hindered it, only Miss Judy told them it was none of their business, and that she had agreed to do it. The Old Lady's folks said she was the neighbour's falls had gone in the room over head, and Miss Judy said she should not blame them, what they might, in case of a difficulty, and the Widow Boss kept encouraging Miss Judy; saying, so that everybody could hear, that it must be done, for it was in the nature and constitution of the police to oppose to put things through in just such a way as every body desired. They had, however, also said, and more more genteel than the Old Lady's folks, and how they did it in this stylish way, never waving their fingers, but keeping their help tied in the kitchen, the garden, about house and where not, to do every sensible chore for them, and with the work as well laid out as it always was here, victuals and clothes for it was quite enough.

"Nothing a day and found I it's a shame!" said the Old Lady, "and I don't wonder they run away every chance they get. I always said so." She said too, that she could guess by what she had just seen, how they were found; and she was glad, for her part, that all this should be found out.

"What business had the Old Lady with that?" said the Widow Boss.

This gave Miss Judy fresh courage, and she stayed and helped the neighbour clear up and put to rights a little; for she saw, she told them, how much they needed a little New England help to keep a little order for them, for their own help were so stupid, so wasteful, lazy, that they were not worth what victuals and clothes they had.

Good feeling and good old neighbourly ways combined, as she told them, to make her a paragon of duty and a truly conscientious obligation to help when they needed it. They might send for her at any time. The Old Lady must not complain. Some of her kitchen folks had always done as much; and if she did not know it, before she knew it now.

But punishment was the last thing the Old Lady thought of. She had, however, disclosed Miss Judy's ears, if it had been manners to do such a thing. She was speechless at the unexpected sight of Miss Judy on her knees over them, scowling the mud and all off the floor, —and then the undivided impulsion of the Widows Boss!

"I shall settle it all my own way," said she at length, when she found her voice. "They say I've but a feeble constitution, when it comes to such shocks as these; but I guess I am strong enough to put a stop to such shames whenever I see them going on upon my land. And I know all this is my land, chock up to the front door. She shan't be gone all day when she's most wanted, and come back all bloody and dirty, to scare the children half to death, just as they ought to be set down quickly to their supper and put to bed. The two things don't go together, they are—the dear Old Lady left the importance of her resolution so much that she hit upon the long word she had used in her life.

Miss Judy, in her latter, rested a good deal upon the old head-gardener's back or had not done, and the precious few of her own special cruities, at the time she first had warning. She thought they and they only, jointly and generally, were qualified to speculate on these things. But she did not mention the fact that the Old Lady had spoken to her, and that they would stay put; and the like.

Miss Boss now began to see, as plainly as everybody else did, that the Old Lady would not suffer with it any longer, that she could not be cutting the children's head and batten at home, while on her knees cleaning up the other house, after one of their dirty jobs.

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It seemed, too, as if Miss Judy felt not but have found more to say against the Old Lady. As it was not enough that the Old Lady thought it a duty to the children, and was determined to be head of her own house, in spite of the facts the aforesaid the wife. But it was also rather likely that if the Old Lady had spoken sharper to her, she really would have had a better chance of a place with higher wages, across the way.

Before closing her letter, Miss Judy expressed great feeling towards the family. In for case they should ever find a great party, and she not there to settle the little differences of the children, and the help the boy opposite (which would be a害), she would not undertake to say what might not happen, especially to the head. She left home to say that, in her judgment, the Old Lady had n't in such matters an atom of sense, and ought to have taken advice of them that had.

One good thing Miss Judy said in dying off, and it was this: that people must always decide for themselves, as she did. But it was thought that her decisions did not say much in favour of the practice.

She ended with the old story, that the children never would respect anybody after this; mentioned her great chair in the children's parlour, and said that whenever she would look, now that she was gone, might as likely as

matter how you looked at it. The family record in the great Bible would show that the understanding was always better than the memory. The Widow Boss was a good man, and every where, saying that if you wanted kindness, you would not need to go any further than Miss Judy. She's really very kind. The Widow Boss never expected to see a kind creature as Miss Judy is again. The children never would respect anybody again, if Miss Judy should be sent off.

But the dear Old Lady remembered a time before the family was bought, or any deals or agreements made. She wished to do what was right about it, but she was one of those people who think what is going to be done tomorrow much more likely to be right than what was done yesterday. "Where the records are so tattooed that they can't be made out," says she, "I shall call the family together and leave it to them; and I know if our good old parents, dead and gone, could see us, they would be glad we should do as much better than they did as possible. We ought to having had better learning. Like something in the way of wood.

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"Now, as to Miss Judy, I don't want to send her off if I can help it," said the Old Lady, "but she shall not sit at my table, with my children, in my house, after such a thing as this, unless I see signs of reformation, and get a promise of her never to do so again. Talk about what my children are going to respect! They'll respect what is respectable, I should think. When I allow anybody that is good to be an example to them to act in the way, I make my children welcome to desist me! Suppose the should stay? I could make the children respect her, I should like to know? I put it to anybody."

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not, see it turned up-side down in the middle of the room; and then, ten to one, the children would be all jumping upon it, till it would be all jammed up and every way and never stand square on four legs again.

But Miss Judy put to her letter into the papers, that anybody that wanted to see it could; and this tale is to be continued.

### TRINITY.

A MORN I pray'd, "I fear I was wrong."

How True are One, and One is True;

And I was wrong, for I was wrong;

And I was wrong, for I was wrong;</